GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1000
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
DELAY IN ISSUE OF VISAS BY THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an inordinate delay in issuing visas by the Indian High Commission in London;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken to avoid delay in issuing of visas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (c) Due to a sudden surge of visa applications in the months of September and October, 2007, from approximately 27,000 per month to approximately 50,000 per month and adverse impact of the Royal Mail strike in the United Kingdom on postal visa applications, there was a slight dislocation in the visa services of the High Commission of India, London for a brief period. However, following deployment of additional resources to cope with the surging demand and restoration of the Royal Mail service, the High Commission is now maintaining the following service levels:-

(i) Visa applications of walk-in applicants are processed within 30 to 45 minutes.

(ii) Postal visa applications are being returned within a week.